

THE ALDE & ORE ASSOCIATION

Your Voice – Your Estuary



Sizewell C Request for delay of Sizewell C DCO planning application

Text of a letter sent by Alde and Ore Association Trustees on 2 May 2020

Recipients: EDF, The Rt Hon Therese Coffey MP, Suffolk County Council Leader Matthew Hicks, SC Councillor Russ Rainger, District Councillors T-J Howarth-Culf, Jocelyn Bond, Ray Herring

We are writing on behalf of the Alde and Ore Association, which has some 2000 members, to urge that Energy EDF delay pushing through the planning application for Sizewell C so that all the processes of consultation can begin once the Covid 19 lockdown measures are lifted. Put simply, that submission of EDF's Development Consent Order is delayed until after lockdown.

It is recognised that this massive project could contribute to energy supplies. But, that is not the immediate issue. The issue is that if the impact of the project is not properly thought through, it will lead to serious damage to the Suffolk Heritage Coast, the unique Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the existing local economy which relies heavily on tourism. The issues are many, complex and inter-related: they include the exact positioning of the plant and the management of all aspects of extensive building works (from transporting huge amounts of construction material to housing workers numbering around or more than the current local population, to environmental and coastal concerns) and all this over a **ten** year period.

It is essential for there to be enough time and the physical conditions to allow proper consultations. Our local authorities are currently hamstrung by the impact of corona virus affecting both what they can do, what they need to do and how they do it. People are confined to their homes. This is no condition under which to start important consultations.

Further, there is a great deal of material which still has to be produced by EDF and which has been asked for under the several previous consultation rounds EDF have yet to produce the necessary Environmental Impact Assessment, something which, in this environmentally unique area, is no small task. Also, they have yet to show any evidence that they have addressed the very real concerns that a construction, which will physically last well into the 21st century, jutting out into the dynamic and fragile coastline will not cause further damage down the coast. This is important because of possible knock-on effects down the coast to settlements such as Aldeburgh and Thorpeness and on the important Alde and Ore coastline, encompassing as it does both the very special shingle Orford Ness and the Alde and Ore Estuary flowing behind it which has so many international and national environmental protection designations because of its special nature.

Lock down is needed for the benefit of the health and well-being of both people and the country's economy. If the EDF consultation with the public were to start while lockdown is still in place, it would not be possible to hold public information sessions or discussions, nor for the public to visit libraries or even the EDF office in Leiston to study the materials. Nor could the local authorities engage as they should. That would be totally contrary to the purpose of rules laid down by Parliament for full and fair consultations.

We therefore urge that Energy EDF postpone the DCO application until after lockdown. We need full assurances that we will be given a proper opportunity to engage with the proposals and comment.

A similar letter is being sent to (depending on recipient EDF, Suffolk County Councillors, District Councillors.)

With thanks

Yours sincerely

Alison Andrews, Birgitta Bostrom, Colin Chamberlain, Keith Martin, Simon Barrow, Roy Truman

Trustees of The Alde and Ore Association

The Association, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, exists to preserve for the public benefit the Alde, Ore and Butley rivers and their banks from Shingle Street to their tidal limits and such of the land adjoining them or upstream as may be considered to affect them, together with the features of beauty and or historic or public interest in that area.

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